

New law permits the Red River Parish School Board to exchange certain land (including sixteenth section land) for other land in Red River Parish in accordance with specified procedures whenever the school board determines that a parcel of its property in Red River Parish is no longer needed for school purposes and that the best interest of the school system would be served by the exchange of such land for other land of comparable value.

New law requires the school board to hold a public hearing to receive public comment concerning the exchange of such lands. Specifies that prior to the hearing, the board shall obtain an appraisal from a certified appraiser of the lands being considered for exchange. Also specifies that the appraisal shall be available for public inspection at the hearing.

New law requires the board to provide notice of the hearing and notice of the board's intent to consider the exchange of land (as well as a brief description of both parcels of land) by advertisement in the official journal of the school board on at least three separate days at least 30 days prior to the hearing date. After conducting the hearing and giving due consideration to any public comment, permits the board, at a regularly scheduled meeting, to authorize the advertised exchange provided that a majority of the board's elected membership determines that the exchange is for a valid purpose in the best interest of the school board and that the lands to be exchanged are of comparable value.

New law specifies that the powers and rights granted are in addition to those conferred by any other general or special law, that new law shall be construed to provide a complete and additional method for the exchange of "unused" school lands, that no proceeding notice or approval except as provided in new law shall be required, and that new law shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 13, 1999).

(Adds R.S. 41:899)